

Sessions
Shadegg
Souder

Stearns
Stump
Tancredo

Waters
Watt (NC)
Weldon (FL)

NOT VOTING—4

Cubin
Larson (CT)

Moakley
Visclosky

□ 1925

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 1, NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF 2001

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of the bill, H.R. 1, the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections and conforming changes to the bill.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1836. An act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 104 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2002.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 1836) "An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 104 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2002" requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. DASCHLE, and Mr. BREAUX, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 1836, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TAX RELIEF RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2001

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1836) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to

section 104 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2002, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, President Bush has said that this bill, which is the tax bill, should be rushed through the Congress to, first, stimulate the economy; and then, more recently, has been offered as a means by which we can deal with the energy crisis in this country.

Now, unfortunately, this bill does not meet the President's request, because it gives no tax relief whatsoever to the people in the bottom part of the Tax Code, those people who do not pay income tax; those people who will be paying \$3 a gallon for gasoline, and who are paying enormous rates for electricity in California, Washington, and Oregon.

□ 1930

Now, in the Committee on Ways and Means, we tried to offer amendments on a windfall profits tax, because in the fall and in the winter, people are not going to be able to pay their utility bills.

It is my view that there ought to be conservation rebates in this bill. There ought to be a whole series of energy-related issues taken up in this bill since this is going to be the tax bill of the session.

There is no more money left. This is it. We have been told \$1.3 trillion. It is out the door, and there is no chance to come back on energy. There is no chance to come back on any of the problems related to the economy because of the energy crisis in this country.

It is my belief that we ought to be dealing with that now. It is a crisis. The California Assembly is suing FERC, the Federal Energy Regulation Commission, because they will not impose price caps. You have a situation where you have price gouging all over the West.

Energy companies in Texas have gotten 400 percent profit in the last 6 months. I mean, we all believe in the free enterprise system, but 10 percent, 15 percent, that is enough, I should think, 400 percent being put on the backs of people who are not going to get a penny out of this tax bill.

This bill deals with people like us and above. It does not deal with people who are making \$25,000 a year for a family of four. They get absolutely nothing out of this bill. I think that the President is being done a disservice by this House by us not dealing with energy in this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I, for that reason, have raised the objection that I think we ought to stop the process, go back to committee and work it out. We do not

need to go rushing to the conference committee. It will be rushed back tomorrow. There will not be a soul in this House who knows what is in the bill.

We can get on those planes tomorrow at 5 p.m., everybody is going to say we passed a tax cut; and they are not going to know what they did. It is my view that the crisis in energy in this country that is beginning in California, it is going to cover the entire country.

Anybody who does not believe that, they should go to Los Angeles, walk around for a week, and you will see what is going to happen in the rest of the United States.

Some of my colleagues are already facing places where gasoline prices are up over \$2, \$2.50 in some parts of this country this last weekend.

Think of those people who have to commute 30 miles, 40 miles, 50 miles, 60 miles a day in an SUV that gets 10 miles, 12 miles, 15 miles to the gallon. It is going to be expensive, and my colleagues are going to hear about it. My colleagues will have passed the only tax bill of this session without ever dealing with energy.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. McDERMOTT. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, the motion is to go to conference, because the tax bill has got to get out before Memorial Day. I wish the majority party, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, would say we need to get out a bill to help California and the West before Memorial Day.

Why are we rushing on this before Memorial Day when California is being bled dry? The gentleman from California (Chairman THOMAS) knows what is going on in California. We are paying as a State now \$3 million an hour for electricity. We are paying \$70 million, sometimes \$90 million a day, over \$3 billion a month.

No State, even if it is the sixth biggest economy in the world, can survive that kind of bleeding.

Mr. Speaker, 65 percent of the business in San Diego County by a report that came out by the Chamber of Commerce, 65 percent of the small businesses in San Diego County are facing bankruptcy this year because of energy. They cannot survive given the costs of electricity.

We have social service organizations for our children who we are not going to leave behind after the last vote closing up half the time because of the overhead in electricity.

We have schools who cannot teach because of the overhead in electricity. We have libraries that cannot buy books because of the overhead in electricity. We are bleeding in California and in Oregon and in Washington and in New Mexico and Wyoming and Montana. In Rhode Island, I heard the prices have just doubled.